

DATE: May 18, 2015

TO: RMC Governing Board

FROM: Mark Stanley, Executive Officer

SUBJECT: Item 10: Consideration of a resolution authorizing a grant amendment with Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority for the Los Cerritos Wetlands Trails Project in the City of Long Beach (RMC14002).

PROGRAM AREA: Rivers and Tributaries

PROJECT TYPE: Development

JURISDICTION: City of Long Beach

PROJECT MANAGER: Luz Quinnell

RECOMMENDATION: That the RMC authorize a grant amendment with Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) to revise the scope of work for the Los Cerritos Wetlands Trails Project in the City of Long Beach (RMC14002).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Los Cerritos Wetlands Trails Improvement Project revised scope of work proposes: (1) to develop a new trail network in and around Los Cerritos Wetlands specifically at Zedler Marsh, (2) install interpretive signage and associated native landscaping and (3) remove trash, debris, non-native plants, improve fencing and gates, install temporary irrigation and improve the native plant nursery through development of an outdoor laboratory and classroom.

BACKGROUND: The LCWA has purchased 178 acres (please see Exhibit A: LCWA Map) of the total estimated 500 acres and is in the process of finalizing the Conceptual Restoration Plan for the entire Los Cerritos Wetlands Complex. But in the interim the LCWA has developed the LCWA Stewardship and Management Program designed to promote community involvement with environmental education, maintenance, restoration and monitoring of the wetlands areas. The LCWA in cooperation with the Los Cerritos Wetlands Land Trust, Aquarium of the Pacific and other local and non-profit partners, propose to create and enhance public coastal access opportunities specifically within the Zedler Marsh. The LCWA aims to concurrently restore critical coastal wetlands habitat since this property has been the target for enhancement projects since being purchased in June 2006. Zedler Marsh is adjacent to the San Gabriel River Bike Trail that runs 38 miles inland through 19 cities from Long Beach to Azusa. Furthermore, the project site also neighbors the California Coastal Trail and Pacific Coast Highway Bike Route.

The LCWA is requesting to amend the scope of work since the inclusion of the State Lands Parcel and Hellman Properties, which were part of the initially authorized grant will require further analysis, potentially a costly and time consuming. The LCWA determined further analysis would include completion of a soil assessment, land use zone amendments and various regulatory permits in order for inclusion of these properties.

The proposed revised scope of work will occur at Zedler Marsh and includes (1) development of a new trail network, (2) installation of interpretive signage and associated native landscaping and (3) remove trash, debris, non-native plants, improve fencing and gates, install temporary irrigation and improve the native plant nursery through a development of an outdoor laboratory and classroom. In addition, both the State Lands Parcel and the Hellman properties will be restored in the future as part of the overall restoration plan for all of Los Cerritos Wetlands.

The goal of this project is to increase public accessibility to natural open space through the creation of a new trail network on Zedler Marsh with the following project objectives: (1) build new nature trails in Los Cerritos Wetlands; (2) install new interpretive kiosks and improve public educational facilities; (3) restore coastal habitat along the trails through the installation of as many as 4,000 native plants that will enhance site aesthetics and ecosystem function; (4) complement existing recreational resources by establishing a new trail connection between the San Gabriel River Bike Trail and the California Coastal Trail; and (5) accomplish at least 25% of the work through goal of 50 community-based volunteer events focused on involving local at-risk youth as program leaders. All work for this project will be performed in congruence with the LCWA's Conceptual Restoration Plan for the entire Los Cerritos Wetlands Complex. Much of this work will be accomplished through volunteer programs as part of the aforementioned Los Cerritos Wetlands Stewardship Program.

FISCAL INFORMATION: No change in the current project budget. Funding for this grant was encumbered from Prop 84 (PCA 30331) for an amount of \$98,000.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AND RMC ADOPTED POLICIES/AUTHORITIES: This grant was initially authorized by the RMC on June 23, 2014 as specified in Resolution 2014-13.

Exhibit A: LCWA Map

Item 10



Los Cerritos Wetlands Complex	● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●	Hellman	—————	OC Retention Basin	
LCWA Properties	—————	Synergy	—————	Roads	—————
Bryant	—————	County Line	- - - - -	City Of Long Beach	—————
State Lands Commission	—————	Parks		Water bodies	
LA County DWP	~~~~~				



June 2010

LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY Los Cerritos Wetlands Area

SCALE 1"=400'



May 18, 2015 – Item 10

RESOLUTION 2015-12

RESOLUTION OF THE SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES
RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS CONSERVANCY (RMC) APPROVING A
GRANT AMENDMENT WITH LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS AUTHORITY
FOR THE LOS CERRITOS WETLANDS TRAILS PROJECT IN THE
CITY OF LONG BEACH (RMC14002).

WHEREAS, the legislature has found and declared that the San Gabriel River and its tributaries, the Lower Los Angeles River and its tributaries, and the San Gabriel Mountains, Puente Hills, and San Jose Hills constitute a unique and important open space, environmental, anthropological, cultural, scientific, educational, recreational, scenic, and wildlife resource that should be held in trust to be preserved and enhanced for the enjoyment of, and appreciation by, present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the people of the State of California have enacted the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40), the Water, Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50), and the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84), which provides funds for the RMC grant program; and

WHEREAS, the RMC may award grants to local public agencies, state agencies, federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations for the purposes of Division 22.8 the Public Resources Code; and

WHEREAS, this action is exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and NOW

Therefore be it resolved that the RMC hereby:

1. FINDS that this action is consistent with the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy Act and is necessary to carry out the purposes and objectives of Division 22.8 of the Public Resources Code.
2. FINDS that the grant is consistent with the California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 40), the Water, Security, Clean Drinking Water, Coastal and Beach Protection Act of 2002 (Proposition 50), and the Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 84), which provides funds for the RMC grant program.
3. FINDS that the actions contemplated by this resolution are exempt from the environmental impact report requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act.
4. APPROVES a grant amendment with Los Cerritos Wetlands Authority (LCWA) to revise the scope of work for the Los Cerritos Wetlands Trails Project in the City of Long Beach (RMC14002).

ADOPTS the staff report dated May 18, 2015.

~ End of Resolution ~

Motion _____ Second: _____

Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Passed and Adopted by the Board of the
SAN GABRIEL AND LOWER LOS ANGELES RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS
CONSERVANCY on May 18, 2015.

Frank Colonna, Chair

ATTEST:

Terry Fujimoto
Deputy Attorney General